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CHAL-0997

Copy No. /

24 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Proposed Reorganization for Project CHALICE

REFERENCE : Memorandum for DD/P, dated 23 May 1960, from AC/DPD, same subject. (Chal-0977)

1. I am attaching herewith the reference which I have approved subject to the following comments. The purpose of this memorandum is to note points covered in our conversation on 23 May.

2. I am in entire agreement that the general plan outlined in the reference is a sound one for the maintenance of the CHALICE capability, providing we remain convinced that this capability can still be employed against the USSR and other target areas with an acceptably low degree of risk. Should the study you are now making of the vulnerability of the U-2 lead to the conclusion that its use over the USSR in peacetime would involve unacceptable risks, the general plan outlined in the reference should certainly be reviewed and probably drastically revised.

3. It should be noted that our judgment of vulnerability must apply not only to the present but to a period extending for at least the next twelve months. Realistically we must assume that barring a major change in the international climate or an emergency situation, political considerations will prohibit the exposure of the U-2 over the USSR for at least the next eight months. Hence, the real question to be decided on the basis of a vulnerability study is whether this capability is worth preserving for possible use in 1961.

4. The principal reservation I must attach to my approval of the reference is that the recommendations in paragraph 7.c. for further modification of equipment cannot be approved until the vulnerability study has been completed and its implications weighed. I am in agreement with the referenced proposal that, if the U-2 capability is worth preserving, some further investment in the improvement of that capability (for instance by adding a refueling capability) is probably worthwhile. On the other hand,

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the sizeable investment contemplated in the reference probably cannot be justified if the U-2 capability is being maintained only for possible emergency use.

5. By way of summary, the following courses of action should be initiated at this time:

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a. Organization: Proceed with the phase-out of [REDACTED] 1 September 1960 or sooner (say by 1 August) if feasible as recommended in paragraph 7.a. of the reference.

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b. Personnel: Freeze Base C personnel and reduce [REDACTED] strength on the basis of an evaluation of the [REDACTED] as recommended in paragraph 7.b. of the reference.

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c. Equipment and Materiel: Necessary technical and cost studies of the following modifications of the U-2 will be carried through as rapidly as possible and no modifications will be actually authorized pending a further approval:

(1) Modification of two or three additional U-2s to the J-75 configuration.

(2) Modification of three to seven U-2s for air refueling.

(3) Modification of four or five U-2s for carrier operation (study should include costs of pilot training and/or recruitment).

(4) Modification of at least three U-2s to operate as drones.

d. Vulnerability Study: A provisional vulnerability study of the U-2 will be completed in conjunction with the Air Force as soon as possible, preferably NLT 1 June. This will be revised as necessary on the basis of (1) any additional intelligence obtained concerning the May Day incident, and (2) flight tests to be undertaken in confirmation of hypothetical explanations of the May Day incident. A target date of


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1 July is established for a review of the plan contained in the reference for CHALICE organization and personnel and for a determination re equipment modifications on the basis of the vulnerabilities study.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

- #1-AC/DPD (~~via DCI for info~~) w/Ref.
- #2-C/Admin/DPD (via D/DCI for Info) w/Ref.
- #3-AC/DPD
- #4-DD/P
- #5-C/Ops/DPD

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